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February 15, 1984

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Secretary Shultz has asked me to thank you for your letter of December 29 concerning Raoul Wallenberg. I regret the delay in this response.

The President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities. As I am sure you know, Secretary Shultz did cite the courageous example of Raoul Wallenberg in his remarks to the conference. As we maintain the confidentiality of our diplomatic exchanges with the Soviets, I am unable to provide you with any details of the Secretary's meeting with Mr. Gromyko. However, I can assure you he raised the full range of human rights issues. In addition, he made clear to the Soviets the value the American government and public attach to human rights in our relationship with the USSR.

As you know, President Reagan signed into law in October 1981 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic act. It made the world aware of our great admiration for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Government.

To further emphasize our dedication to resolve the mystery surrounding Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets through diplomatic channels immediately after he was made an honorary U.S. citizen. As yet, we have not received a response from them. However, our efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in his case.

We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings and international forums, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In 1982, the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission urged the

The Honorable
Glenn A. Anderson,
House of Representatives

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations
(X) RELEASE
() EXCISE
() DECLASSIFY
() EXEMPT
() DECLASSIFY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions
() CLASSIFY as
() DOWNGRADE TS
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() S or () C OADR
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Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest, or else in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the Commission, the U.S. Alternate Representative again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." He suggested the U.N. Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case.

We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

On August 3, 1983, Edward J. Derwinski, Counselor of the Department, testified in Congress on the subject of Raoul Wallenberg. As he stated then, "Our position has remained consistent and clear. Until the Soviets provide a full clarification of Wallenberg's fate, the United States will not accept as final the Soviet assurances that Wallenberg died in 1947 ... I can assure you categorically that this matter will be raised again in every appropriate forum."

You inquired about U.S. efforts to secure Mr. Wallenberg's right to return to this country. I am confident the United States would be honored and eager to have him as a resident. In the interest of accuracy, I should point out the Congressional resolution signed by the President granted Mr. Wallenberg honorary U.S. citizenship. As the Department noted when this legislation was under consideration, honorary citizenship does not confer to either Mr. Wallenberg or his family any benefits under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Should Mr. Wallenberg be freed and desire to come to the United States, the U.S. Government would make every attempt possible to satisfy his desires in accordance with U.S. law.

Sincerely,

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W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
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Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs